



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention

An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

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Lead & Copper

SAMPLE SITE SELECTION, SAMPLING TECHNIQUES, and SAMPLING PROCEDURE

LEAD/COPPER SAMPLE SITE LOCATIONS

- ✓ Sites for lead and copper testing must be locations generally used for drinking water consumption.
- ✓ This would include kitchen and bathroom sinks, break room sinks, drinking fountains, etc.
- ✓ **DO NOT** collect lead and copper samples from mop sinks, outside faucets, etc.
- ✓ If you are a **COMMUNITY** system, you should be collecting from **SINGLE FAMILY HOMES** or **MULTI-FAMILY HOMES** – **NOT** from post offices, public buildings, etc.
- ✓ **DO NOT** collect lead and copper samples from vacant buildings, empty apartments or trailers, etc.
- ✓ A site that is not normally used for drinking water, but can be (such as a bathroom sink in a business that has a break room- chances are good that the bathroom sink is seldom used for drinking, but an employee **COULD** use it) is considered a viable sample location and should be part of the sample site pool if there are not enough other sources to round out the required number of sites.
- ✓ You **must** use different sites for each lead/copper sample bottle. If you do not have enough sinks/faucets to collect the number of samples the Lead/Copper Rule requires, you must collect multiple samples from your sites over several days, allowing the fixtures to sit for a minimum of 6 hours between sample collections.
NOTE: If you have 5 sinks and need to collect 10 samples, you should be collecting a 2nd sample from each sink (not 5 samples from each sink and then 5 additional samples from one sink).
- ✓ When collecting multiple samples from a site, you **MUST** collect your 2nd sample a minimum of 6 hours after the 1st sample was taken and the site cannot be used during that 6 hour time-frame. So if you have only one suitable lead/copper site, you cannot collect your lead/copper samples in less than 30 hours (and that is assuming you can insure that the sink is not used at all during that time).

LEAD/COPPER SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

- ✓ Flush lines with cold water prior to letting them sit for the 6-hour hold time.
- ✓ Allow fixture to remain unused for a minimum of 6 hours.
- ✓ Collect a 1 st draw sample (stick bottle under faucet before turning on the faucet).
- ✓ Use the cold faucet for filling the sample bottle.
- ✓ Try to collect the sample within **6-8 hours** after the fixture has been flushed and shut off (when possible, try not to collect/analyze samples that have more than a 10-hour hold time).
- ✓ 1st draw means 1st draw for **EVERY** sample. If you have one sink at your business and you are required to collect 5 samples, you **MUST** collect them over the course of several days, allowing the water to stand for a minimum of 6 hours between each sample collection. You **DO NOT** collect the first bottle at 7am, the 2nd bottle at 7:01am, the 3rd bottle at 7:02am, etc. If, due to the nature of your business, you cannot feasibly leave the water off at a location for 6 hours straight, please contact the Drinking Water Program to discuss alternative sampling.
- ✓ You have 14 days from sample collection to get the bottles to the lab for analysis. If you collect your 1st sample on June 1st, you have until June 15th to get bottles to the lab.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE FOR LEAD & COPPER

(if you are on annual or 3-year testing, remember to collect between June 1st & September 30th)

1. Run cold water at each sample location tap to flush the line completely.
2. Shut off tap and tape off, etc. to insure faucet is not used for a minimum of 6 hours (recommended stand time is 6-10 hours- longer stand times are not generally representative of normal exposure).
3. After tap has sat unused for at least 6 hours, place sample bottle under faucet, fill bottle with 1st draw from the cold water tap & close the bottle tightly. Note time of sample collection on chain of custody form.
4. Collect all required samples in the same manner and submit for analysis within 14 days of collection.
5. Fill out laboratory paperwork (chain of custody, etc.) completely and submit with samples.
6. You must also complete both sides of the 141-A Form, sign it and return it with the samples or send it to the Drinking Water Program.

OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER

If you think a sample was collected improperly (not 1st draw, from an incorrect site, from a faucet that has been off for too long)- **ASK QUESTIONS AND DO NOT SEND IN FOR ANALYSIS UNTIL YOU ARE SURE IT WAS COLLECTED PROPERLY**- Once it is analyzed it COUNTS towards compliance (with very few exceptions).

If your faucet mixes hot and cold (does not have separate faucet heads), you may want to turn off the hot water line prior to testing.

*****WHEN IN DOUBT:** Contact your [Compliance Officer](#). It is better to ask and get clarification, than to sample incorrectly and end up with a violation due to improper site selection or sample technique.